

MAR -9 1922

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✓ THE JUNGLE GODDESS ✓

✓ Photoplay in three reels ✓

✓ Episode #1 "Sacrificed to the Lions" ✓

✓ Scenario by Frank Dazey and Agnes Johnston ✓

✓ Directed by James Conway ✓

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Episode 1- "Sacrificed to the Lions".

"Lady Betty" Castleton, the but four years old, is the richest heiress in South Africa. Her unscrupulous uncle, James Scranton, a scientist, plans to do away with the girl so that he can get the money. Two ruffians are leading her away when they are attacked by lions. They drop the girl into the basket of a balloon and, in their efforts to escape from the charging beasts, untie the fastening cables. The lions are upon them before they can clamber into the basket. The balloon, freed, rises into the heavens with its tiny little passengers. For a day and a night it drifts until it is over the jungle fastnesses of a savage tribe of beast worshippers. Beta Oom, their high priest is about to make a bloody sacrifice when Thunderman, a giant chieftain spies the balloon in the sky. He shoots it down with a flaming arrow. Then he rushes to see what the gods have sent him. As he picks the little white child from the tangled wreckage he believes she is a white divinity heaven has sent.

Beta Oom ridicules the idea and asks as a test that the child be placed among the hunger maddened lions. This, Thunderman is forced to consent to. Betty, before her abduction, had been playing with an American boy, Ralph Dean, who was celebrating the Fourth of July. As the strangers had seized her she had clutched in her hands the bundles of firecrackers which she still held when Thunderman rescued her.

The savages placed her on the giant stone image in their mysterious temple and then loosed the lions. The child, from her lofty perch regarded the snarling beasts as playful "kitties". Igniting one of the crackers in the incense burning at her side, she tosses the bunch into the arena with the beasts. The lions frightened by the fire and explosions beat a hasty retreat. The savages, awed by this miraculous happening bow down and worship Betty as their true goddess.

Betty grows up and replaces the savage methods of Beta Oom with love and kindness. Thunderman and Tom Tom, a little jungle waif, are her ardent supporters.

Ralph Dean, grown up, decides to search for the lost Betty. Hearing of strange tales coming from the jungles he sets out to track them to their source. After months of weary exploration, he finally reaches Betty's tribe. He is trapped by lions when Betty, seeing him from overhead, has her pet elephant drop a huge rock into the midst of the struggling lions and so saves the lad.

Ralph relates his adventures and finally makes Betty realize that she is not a goddess after all. Beta Oom and his followers have been eavesdropping. Thunderman is away hunting. Tom-Tom sees Beta Oom rush in on Betty and Ralph and seize them. They take Betty to the stone god while Tom-Tom rushes for help.

Accompanied by his howling savages, Beta Oom places Betty on the lap of the stone idol and then looses the lions. Suddenly the eyes of the image begin to flash fire. The knife-pointed finger tips on his giant hands begin to move threateningly. The loosed lions spot Betty and two ponderous beasts leap at her just as the steel fingers of the idol start to descent upon her.

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